



Good Shepherd Church

Mission Statement

**Good Shepherd Community Church:
Where God loves, Christ leads and people serve.**

2018

Sunday Worship
10:00a.m.

Sunday School during
Worship

Fellowship Coffee
Following Worship

*-Sunday School
beings Sept. 30th.*

*-Joint Board Meeting
Tuesday Sept. 11
@ 7pm*

*-Choir Begins
Thursday Sept. 13 @
7pm*

*-Seniors Social
Friday Sept. 21 @
1:00pm*

Pastor:

**The Rev. Rick Beck
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Prayer Tree Request

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Www.

goodshepherdmoravian.org

Joint Board Chair:

Anita Jones

Building: John Dyck

Congregational Care:

Shirley Klockow

Treasurer:

Lynne Hennig

Pastor's Article

Hopefully, by the time this newsletter comes out the smoke from the B.C. fires will have cleared. For the past weeks we have been under a health advisory due to the smoke. The moment you go outside you can feel it in your lungs and your eyes. Some people have started wearing hospital masks, but the particles are so fine that they go right through them. For some this is simply an annoyance, but their life goes on as usual. For people with health issues it can be detrimental. The only recourse is to stay inside.

But let's not kid ourselves. The real victims are the people who live in the path of the fire. They can find a temporary place to live and then must helplessly watch as their greatest asset is consumed. Our hearts go out to them. Anyone who owns property can relate to this sinking feeling. That's why we are so willing to dig into our own resources to give the victims a leg-up.

If we didn't take time to consider the deeper lesson in this situation we would miss the opportunity to become wiser people. When we are mindful of what is happening both around us and in us, we find ways to address the circumstances of our lives with a sense of peace and compassion. When we fail to be mindful, we are prone to emotional knee-jerk reactions of fear, anger or envy. Fear caused Adam and Eve to hide the truth which has an influence on everyone around us. In anger Cain killed his brother Able which inflicted pain on his entire family. It was envy that lead Joseph's brothers to sell him into slavery which broke their father's heart. But mindfulness has a greater impact. Moses lead the people of Israel out of slavery to a covenant life with God, Mary said "yes" to the angel Gabriel, Jesus spoke and lived compassion, and because of their actions, two thousand years later lives are still being transformed.

In Deuteronomy, chapter five, it states that the sins of the parents are visited on the children to the third and fourth generations. But for the faithful, the steadfast love of God extends as far as the thousandth generation. Even when we are living with the consequences of our faults, God honors the faithful before us by transforming our lives. There are reports of smoke from B.C. reaching the east coast of North America and beyond. Everything we do touches lives well beyond our imagination. Acts of shame are never truly hidden. Acts of kindness are never wasted.

This isn't an attempt to induce guilt. It's an invitation to be mindful of what is motivating our actions. We don't live in a vacuum. Everything we do touches lives. What impact would you like to have on the world? Will our choice be life-giving, or will they cause others to choke? Let's make the compassion of Jesus Christ the foundation of everything we do and watch it drift across the lives of our horizon.

Pastor Rick Beck

